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## Nonmilitary students join officers at Fort Leavenworth college

By MARK MORRIS  
The Kansas City Star

Although it may seem that fewer students at the Army's premier leadership college are wearing uniforms, it's only because more of those students in Leavenworth aren't in the military.

Under a new program at the Army's Command and General Staff College, diplomats, international development specialists, intelligence officers and FBI agents are enrolled in graduate level courses in the military arts and sciences.

The goal of the program, which stems from an executive order from President George W. Bush, is to put high-level civilian specialists with the military officers with whom they'll have to solve the nation's future security problems. Those challenges could include responding to natural disasters or rebuilding war-shattered provinces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Such cooperation is seen as critical to success, said Ralph Doughty, who holds the Interagency and Transformation Chair at the college.

"Unlike previous times in our history, we don't really go to war just as an Army or joint force," Doughty said. "It always includes other agencies. ... How do we improve and have a successful ... comprehensive approach to bringing assets to bear on a problem?"

In May 2007, Bush ordered the federal government to begin a career development program for national security professionals. Since then, 23 students from a range of federal agencies have joined military officers in the program, which teaches them how to solve complex operational and strategic problems during peacetime and war.

The current crop includes students from the State Department, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Agency for International Development, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Central Intelligence Agency, the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency and the FBI.

Bringing all the experience available to issues in the field also works well for the Army, Doughty said.

"It's in our own best interest that we work as a team so it doesn't fall in our lap to get it done," Doughty said.

Students also travel to top military and diplomatic posts in the U.S. and Europe to get a sense of the political, economic and diplomatic issues with which they'll have to contend.

Danny Day, an FBI cybercrime supervisor from Milwaukee, is enrolled in the top program at the college's School of Advanced Military Studies, the Advanced Operational Arts Studies Fellowship.

He and Lt. Col. Dewey Granger, who has served two tours in Iraq, are learning how each other's organizations work.

"If he's in Afghanistan and has FBI players in his area, he'll know how to speak with them," Day said. "It will mean a lot less friction. We have enough problems with the enemy."

FBI agents have been involved in Iraq and Afghanistan for years. Evidence teams have analyzed fragments from roadside bombs, conducted terrorism inquiries and investigated contractor fraud.

Granger said his work with an international development specialist at the college has given him a fresh perspective on the nuances of that work. If an Army unit gets the task of building a school, the development expert could contribute a better idea of where it should go and how it could best serve the local population, Granger said.

"We recognize that all problems don't have a military solution," Granger said. "And a lot of it is driven from the lessons of Iraq and Afghanistan."

At the end of the program, Granger is likely to be given a brigade-level command, while Day eventually could be assigned to an FBI headquarters unit. Possible postings also could include a major military command, such as

NATO in Belgium, where Day would be consulting with commanders on FBI activities throughout a wide swath of the world.

And the lessons from Leavenworth will go to work.

"I'll learn the way Danny and his organization operates," Granger said. "Not just the methods, but the rules. And you learn the formal and informal processes that aren't written down in the books."

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